



"Oster, Katie"
<Katie.Oster@TEA.STATE.TX.
.US>

01/20/2011 02:38 PM

Please respond to
"Oster, Katie"
<Katie.Oster@TEA.STATE.TX.
.US>

To T3@LIST.TETN.NET

cc

bcc

Subject [TEA-L] T3 January Announcements

Hello everyone,
Here are the announcements regarding T3 this month.

Let me know if I can assist you with anything.

Thanks,
Katie

Low Draw Downs of ARRA Grant Funds--Important Information

One of ARRA's guiding principles is that grant funds are to be spent quickly to save and create jobs. Furthermore, unexpended ARRA grant funds with a grant end date of September 30, 2011 will lapse in less than a year. Through its expenditure reporting (ER) system, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) monitors the rate at which grantees are drawing down their ARRA funds. TEA considers grantees as having low draw downs if they have expended less than 5% of a grant award per month since the NOGA start date. In this second and final year of ARRA funding, it is even more crucial that grantees review their planned use of funds in relation to the grant end date. If your organization has incurred expenditures but has not requested a draw down through ER, please submit those expenditures as soon as possible through ER and plan to regularly submit future expenditures. It is important that TEA and Texas schools publicly demonstrate that ARRA funds are being expended in accordance with congressional intent and applicable cash management guidelines.

ARRA Reporting

Keep up with the latest on ARRA Stimulus funding here:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4570>. Remember that the uses of the ARRA Title II D funds should focus on reaching the Target Tech level on the Texas Campus and Teacher STaR Charts
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart>.

Amendments

Now is a good time for grantees to consider taking a critical look at your budgets to ensure all grant funds are spent by September 30, 2011. This is the closing date for Target Tech in Texas (T3) grant. Please submit any amendments in a timely manner to ensure all funds will be spent. The last day to submit an amendment to TEA is 90 days before the ending date of the grant. If you wait until the last date to amend and you want to make equipment purchases, you will need to show there will be significant impact and use of that equipment during the grant period, or the amendment may not be approved. It is not uncommon for these later amendments to be disapproved for this reason. If you do amend, please remember the 25% minimum funding you need to ensure will be spent on professional development.

For speedier processing of amendments:

Fax a signed Schedule 1 – General Information; Schedule 3 – Purpose of Amendment and any other affected program or budget pages to Discretionary Grants at 512-463-9811. Call 512-463-9269 if you have trouble with your fax getting through and you will be given an alternate number to use. Be sure to use strikethroughs for deleted/changed items and underline for new items.

Fifth Quarter Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports

All submitted Q5 progress reports and evaluation reports are in the process of being reviewed and filed. It has been exciting to learn about the progress and impact that the ARRA funding is having on your schools. Thank you for all the links to pictures, videos, lessons, professional development, and success stories, as well as describing your challenges and how TEA can assist you in the future.

We will notify grantees via email if we have follow up questions or concerns with your reporting. If progress reports contained answers that were left blank or provided no details, they will be sent back for further information. Please keep this in mind when answering next quarter's progress reports.

If you have failed to submit your fifth quarter progress report by the January 10th, 2011 deadline, please do so at this time. Eligibility of grantees to receive future grants, including continuation grants, from TEA could be impacted by noncompliance.

Please submit completed Progress Reports and Evaluation reports to T3@tea.state.tx.us.

Spring Site Visits and Communications

Site visits have provided us a wonderful opportunity to speak with administrators, instructional technologists, principals, teachers, and students and hear about the positive impact the T3 funding is making in their schools through extensive professional development and technology purchases. We look forward to planning more visits throughout the spring. Please be sure to let us know if there is a certain event or particular time that you would like us to visit your area to showcase your collaborative's hard work and we will try to be there.

Also, please share any outstanding examples of websites, quotes, student work, pictures, or videos that you have obtained through the use of the T3 funding. We share these examples with a variety of sources that can make a positive impact on the future of Educational Technology and funding.

SXSWedu

The **Project Share** team at the **Texas Education Agency** is pleased to announce an educational conference celebrating Texas' new K-12 education portal, Project Share. The conference, "Project Share: Knowledge Knows No Boundaries," will be hosted by SXSWedu March 8-10, 2011, at the ATT Conference Center in Austin, Texas. For more information, please go to sxswedu.com.

Project Share is a Texas Education Agency initiative that supports the development and delivery of high quality professional development for Texas educators in an interactive and engaging online learning environment. More than 180,000 Texas educators have already been provided access to the Project Share online community, and the number of participating Texas educators continues to grow. In addition to professional development opportunities, Project Share provides Texas teachers support, collaboration, and resources from across the state, including multimedia content provided through Texas Education on iTunes U. To learn more, go [to projectsharetexas.org](http://projectsharetexas.org).

Online registration for "Project Share: Knowledge Knows No Boundaries" and an invitation to submit session proposals for review by the TEA can be found at sxswedu.com.

